



U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Crime Hearing Wednesday on Legislation Cracking Down on Caller ID Spoofing

What: Legislative hearing on H.R. 5304, the “Preventing Harassment Through Outbound Number Enforcement Act” – (the “PHONE Act”)
Who: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security – Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Chairman
When: 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, November 15, 2006
Where: 2141 Rayburn Building

Caller ID “spoofing” involves using an incorrect, fake or fraudulent caller ID to hide the identity of the caller in order to facilitate a fraudulent telephone call to a recipient. In the last few years, caller ID spoofing has become easier to use and more widely available, with companies advertizing the availability of this technology on the Internet. The technology not only masks the origin of the call but also allows the spoofer to choose the phone number and name of the person that will appear on the caller ID.

PROBLEMS...

- ✓ Call recipients divulge personal and private information to the caller under the mistaken belief that the caller is a legitimate caller (e.g. a bank or credit card company). The spoofer then uses this personal information in a variety of criminal enterprises.

THIS LEGISLATION WOULD...

- ⇒ Create a new federal crime prohibiting the modification of caller ID, with the intent to deceive the recipient of a telephone call as to the identity of the caller. The bill would impose a fine and/or a prison term of up to five years for violations.
- ⇒ The legislation would not affect legally available blocking of caller ID technology or lawfully authorized activities of law enforcement or intelligence agencies.

WITNESSES: Hon. Tim Murphy (R-Penn.); Mr. Barry Sabin, Deputy Asst. Atty. General, Criminal Division, U.S. Justice Dept.; Mr. James Martin, President and Founder, 60-Plus Association; and Mr.

Phil Kiko, Chief of Staff and General Counsel, U.S. House Judiciary Committee.

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